

## **VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

### **Distance learning programs and preceptorships for veterinary technicians**

All preceptorship programs must meet the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

#### **Campus and Distance Programs**

In order to be considered a veterinary technician preceptee or extern (VTP/E), an individual must be duly enrolled and in good standing in a veterinary technology program accredited or approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). A VTP/E may perform duties that constitute the practice of veterinary technology for which he has received adequate instruction by the program prior to receiving a license from the Board of Veterinary Medicine. However, duties may only be performed under the on-premises supervision of a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician. It is the responsibility of the supervising licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician and the VTP/E to obtain information from the campus or distance program to determine whether the preceptee or extern has received adequate instruction by the program.

The *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine*, 18VAC150-20-10, defines preceptorship or externship as a “formal arrangement between an AVMA accredited college of veterinary medicine or an AVMA accredited veterinary technology program and a veterinarian who is licensed by the board and responsible for the practice of the preceptee. A preceptorship or externship shall be overseen by faculty of the college or program.” A formal arrangement is a written document/arrangement between the licensed veterinarian and faculty of a campus or distance program that includes, but is not limited to, supervision expectations. The supervising veterinarian is responsible for obtaining the necessary oversight by faculty of the campus or distance program.

The lack of documentation related to a preceptorship or externship may result in disciplinary action.